

## LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

**LANDMARK/SITE NAME:** Kellum-Noble House  
**OWNER:** Harris County Heritage Society  
**APPLICANT:** Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission  
**LOCATION:** 212 Dallas Street  
**30-DAY HEARING NOTICE:** April-20-98

**AGENDA ITEM:** Ik  
**PC MEETING DATE:** June-25-98  
**HPO FILE NO.:** 98L057  
**DATE ACCEPTED:** Mar-26-98  
**HAHC HEARING DATE:** May-21-98

### SITE INFORMATION

Block 262, SSBB, City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The building on the site is a two-story, brick, hipped roof residence.

**TYPE OF APPROVAL REQUESTED:** Landmark Designation

### HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kellum-Noble House was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 3, 1975 (Reference No. 75001989). The house was built in 1847 and is classified as Greek Revival style. The house was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1967 (R1151).

The oldest surviving building in Houston, the Kellum-Noble House was built outside the original townsite on the "upper part" of Houston, adjacent to Nathaniel Kelly Kellum's brickyard. It is a double pen house with central dogtrot passage. The hipped roof, encircling galleries, and brick construction were all departures from conventional Houston house types. The house was included in the city's purchase of the park in 1899. A move to demolish it in 1954 led to the formation of the Harris County Heritage Society, which rescued the building and opened it to the public as a house museum in 1958, following restoration by Harvin C. Moore. (The above was extracted from the *Houston Architecture Guide*, Stephen Fox)

At the public hearing of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission (HAHC) held on March 13, 1997, the HAHC discussed the matter regarding the expiration of the two-year temporary designation of all landmarks that City Council had previously designated when the Historic Preservation Ordinance was adopted on March 1, 1995. Since the designation had expired, the HAHC requested that the planning staff contact the owners of these landmarks to determine their interest in the HAHC initiating an application for permanent designation. Letters were sent to the owners who confirmed that the HAHC could initiate designation. The HAHC had instructed the planning staff previously that if any landmark had been designated either by the National Register program, as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, a State Archaeological Site or a temporary landmark of the City of Houston, then the application would be considered for permanent landmark designation on that merit alone. Therefore, regarding the preparation of the application, HAHC agreed to consider the application with minimal information provided to them.

### APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

#### Sec. 33-224. Criteria for designation of a Landmark.

(a) The HAHC and the commission, in making recommendations with respect to designation, and the city council, in making a designation, shall consider one or more of the following criteria, as appropriate for the type of designation:

# CITY OF HOUSTON

## Archaeological & Historical Commission

## Planning and Development Department

S D NA

S - satisfies

D - does not satisfy

NA - not applicable

- (1) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area possesses character, interest or value as a visible reminder of the development, heritage, and cultural and ethnic diversity of the city, state, or nation;
- (2) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is the location of a significant local, state or national event;
- (3) Whether the building, structure, object, site or area is identified with a person who, or group or event that, contributed significantly to the cultural or historical development of the city, state, or nation;
- (4) Whether the building or structure or the buildings or structures within the area exemplify a particular architectural style or building type important to the city;

The Kellum-Noble House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion "C" which includes "**distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction.**"

- (5) Whether the building or structure or the buildings or structures within the area are the best remaining examples of an architectural style or building type in a neighborhood;
- (6) Whether the building, structure, object or site or the buildings, structures, objects or sites within the area are identified as the work of a person or group whose work has influenced the heritage of the city, state, or nation;
- (7) Whether specific evidence exists that unique archaeological resources are present;
- (8) Whether the building, structure, object or site has value as a significant element of community sentiment or public pride.

### HAHC RECOMMENDATION:

At a public hearing on May 21, 1998, the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission determined that the application complied with criteria found in the Houston Preservation Ordinance, and recommended that the Planning Commission accepts the recommendation of the HAHC and forward it to City Council for the designation of the Kellum-Noble House as a Landmark of the City of Houston.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Recommends that the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission recommends designation of the Kellum-Noble House as a landmark to the Planning Commission since the application complies with the criteria of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

# CITY OF HOUSTON

Archaeological & Historical Commission

Planning and Development Department

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SITE MAP

KELLUM-NOBLE HOUSE

212 DALLAS STREET

NOT TO SCALE